(c) by when the work would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Works relating to repairs to the existing booking office, extension of platform No. 1, washable aprons on platforms No. 4 & 5; refreshment stall on platform No. 4 & 5; computerised announcement system and improvement to the Enquiry System and improvements to the drinking water supply have been completed recently at a cost of Rs. 88.65 lakh.

As a measure of further improvement / beautification, the provision of additional water coolers, paving of platforms surfaces; improvements to base kitchen; replacement of seating arrangements in waiting room; replacement of tiles in retiring rooms and toilets; improvements to drinking water supply; provision of cloak room; provision of escalators, coaching electric display boards; opening of additional booking counters at least booking office and beautification of station building have also been taken up at an estimated total cost of Rs. 2.69 crore.

Bids for Bogie Flat wagons by Container Corporation of India

1818. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether bids were opened in July, 1999, by Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) for procurement of 600 Bogie Flat Wagons;

(b) if so, whether the lowest offer of Rs. 60.41 crore (approx). from Burn Standard and Company, a CPSU located in West Bengal, was rejected by CONCOR;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and if not, why the order could not be placed on the lowest bidder; and

(d) whether the then Ministry of Industry had also approached the Railways to intervene in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, the award of the contract entirely depends upon the World Bank's final clearance as loan is funded by the World Bank.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Import of Super Computer

1819. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to buy another super computer from the US;

(b) if so, what is the condition of the super computer presently being used, purchased from the US sometime back; and

(c) what is the purpose of the super computer proposed to be acquired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The life span of eight years of the Super Computer presently in use in National centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) was over on November 17, 1996. The Technology on which this computer was designed has become obsolete. Because of this, its maintenance proves to be very expensive.

(c) The medium-range weather forecasts generated from the present computer have been found useful by agricultural sector, planners and other user agencies. They expect the accuracy and range of the forecasts to be improved further. In view of the existing super computer having become obsolete and also for carrying out operational and intensive R&D work with a view to improving the forecasts and meeting the demands of the users, the acquisition of another Super Computer with cost effective operation, state-of-the art technology and better performance has become necessary.